

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claim 16 is amended. Claims 1-6, 12-15 and 17-19 remain in the application. Thus, claims 1-6 and 12-19 are active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for kindly indicating that claims 1-6, 12-15 and 17-19 are allowed in item 6 on page 3 of the Office Action.

However, in item 4 on page 2 of the Office Action, claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to nonstatutory subject matter. In particular, the Examiner asserted that it is not clear whether the program recited in claim 16 is stored on an appropriate medium to perform the recited operations when the program is executed by a computer.

To overcome the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, the preamble of claim 16 has been amended to recite that the program is “stored on a computer-readable medium and used by a cryptocommunication computer system including a transmission apparatus and a reception apparatus.”

The Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the preamble of claim 16 overcome the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the program is positively recited as being stored on a computer-readable medium and as being used by a cryptocommunication computer system.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for kindly indicating, in item 7 on page 3 of the Office Action, that claim 16 would be allowed if rewritten to overcome its rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

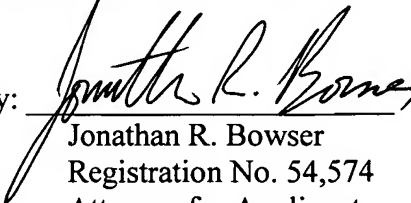
Accordingly, having overcome the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 is clearly in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Masato YAMAMICHI et al.

By: 
Jonathan R. Bowser
Registration No. 54,574
Attorney for Applicants

JRB/nrj
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
July 12, 2006